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[54] **APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING ONE INTERRUPT MASK REGISTER IN CONFORMITY WITH ANOTHER IN A MANNER INVISIBLE TO AN EXECUTING PROGRAM**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] **Field of Search** .... 395/650, 734; 364/200, DIG. 1, DIG. 2, 231, 240, 246

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A laptop computer system includes a protected mode microprocessor capable of operating in restricted and unrestricted modes, and an arrangement which in response to a predetermined condition saves information from the processor and then forcibly switches the processor to its unrestricted mode of operation. The system includes a first interrupt mask register having a bit for indicating whether an interrupt is to be recognized by the processor, a second interrupt mask register having a bit for indicating whether the interrupt is to be recognized by a further circuit, and an arrangement responsive to a load of the first mask register for conforming the bit of the second mask register to the bit of the first mask register in a manner invisible to an application program being executed by the processor.

9 Claims, 171 Drawing Sheets